THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Government have not fixed any deadline for covering the entire country with supply of ethanol-blended-petrol. However, the deadline for covering all areas of 9 major sugarcane producing States and 4 UTs with 5% ethanol-blended petrol has been extended from 30.6.2003 to 30.9.2003.

(b) The deadline has been extended mainly due to non-availability of sufficient quantity of anhydrous ethanol against the public tender floated by oil companies. In addition, certain levies/fees charged by States like high sales tax, purchase tax/import/export fee is making the marketing of ethanol-blended petrol unviable in those States.

(c) Inter State movement of molasses is governed by State Excise Laws.

(d) Oil companies have already taken up the issues through State Level coordinator with the concerned State Governments.

Securitisation scheme for petroleum sector

241. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are in the process of finalising securitisation scheme for the petroleum sector;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme;

(c) whether the scheme is on the lines of the scheme that has been adopted for SEBs; and

(d) in what matter securitisation scheme would help the petroleum sector to improve further/?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main features of the proposed scheme are as under:—

(i) The scheme will be applicable for securitization of SEB dues in North Eastern Region in respect of outstanding dues of GAIL (India) Limited and Oil India Limited.

(ii) Issue of 10 years 8.5% State Government Bonds payable every six months.

(iii) Repayment in 10 equal half yearly instalments commencing after a moratorium of 5 years.

(iv) Partly waiver of past interest on case to case basis.

(v) Payment of current dues through Letter of Credit.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The scheme would help in realization of old-outstanding dues of SEBs in North Eastern Region and ensure the timely realization of current dues.

ADB's offer for Tap project

242. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has not shown any interest to an offer by Asian Development Bank (ADB) for laying $3.5 billion gas pipeline from Turkmenistan through Afghanistan and Pakistan;

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposal offered by ADB; and

(c) the reasons for not accepting the proposal of ADB by the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Asian Development Bank (ADB) propose to lay Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan (TAP) Natural Gas Pipeline System. The pipeline system would consist of gas pipeline of about 1700 kms. and related facilities that can transport upto 30 Billion Cubic Meters (BCM) of natural gas annually from the Dauletabad fields in Turkmenistan to Afghanistan, Pakistan and possibly India. The total cost of the project is estimated at US$2-2.5 billion.

(c) The Central Government have not accepted the proposal on account of current geo-political situation in the region.